

# Become a Junior Naturalist

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As you explore Hungry Mother State Park you will learn more about the Civilian Conservation Corps, plants and animals that call this park home, the history of the park, and what it takes to be a State Park Ranger.

A Junior Naturalist learns about the history and nature at State Parks and assists the rangers in taking care of and protecting the parks. Virginia State Parks also help people to enjoy the places they protect. We hope that you will enjoy learning about Hungry Mother State Park and will help us protect the park so others can enjoy it in the future.

## **To become a Hungry Mother State Park Junior Naturalist**

Complete a minimum of six activities in this booklet and attend at least one program (or a self-guided activity if there are no programs at the time of your visit). Then bring your booklet back to the Discovery Center to earn your Junior Naturalist patch.

Program Name

Date

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A neat fact you learned from the program

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Ranger Signature

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# Activity 1

## Sightseeing Bingo

Hungry Mother State Park has many places to visit and animals, plants and landscapes to see. Find the objects below within the park to get bingo.

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|--|--|--|---|
|  <p>Dive Tower</p>      |  <p>CCC Logo</p>              |  <p>Bird</p>         |  <p>Discovery Center</p>     |
|  <p>Picnic Shelter</p> |  <p>White-tailed Deer</p>    |  <p>Leaf</p>        |  <p>Animal Tracks</p>       |
|  <p>Paddle Boat</p>   |  <p>Amphitheater Bridge</p> |  <p>Salamander</p> |  <p>Hungry Mother Sign</p> |
|  <p>Frog</p>          |  <p>Spillway</p>            |  <p>Beach</p>      |  <p>Molly's Knob</p>       |

# Activity 2

## Animal Track Match

There are many animals that call Hungry Mother their home. You might not see these animals; however, you can find evidence to them being here. One piece of evidence is animal tracks. Animal tracks can be left behind in mud, sand and other soft or wet surfaces. Match the tracks to the animal that left them behind.



Black Bear

Snapping Turtle

White-tailed Deer

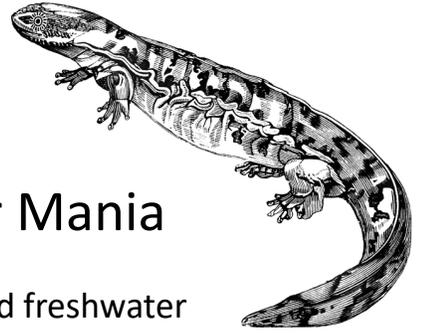
Killdeer

Coyote

Raccoon

Human

# Activity 3



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## Hellbender Mania

Hellbenders are a type of salamander that live in clean, non-polluted freshwater sources within the Appalachian Mountains. What do you think a hellbender should look like? Draw your hellbender below. Then check out Hungars, our hellbender, at the Discovery Center and find out some interesting facts along the way.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the lower half of the page. It is intended for the student to draw their own hellbender.

# Activity 4

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## Predatory Ears

Imagine yourself as a predator that utilizes hearing as its main source for tracking prey. Find a safe place near a parking lot (Location 1) and sit with your eyes closed, listening to all you can hear. Think about these questions while listening:

- Can you tell how far away the sound is?
- Do you know what is making the sound?
- Is the sound from nature or is it man-made?

Write down what you heard below. Now, move to a quiet spot along one of the trails (Location 2) and repeat your listening exercise. What is different about the sounds here? Are the sounds nature sounds or more man-made?

Location 1

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Location 2

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Now compare the sounds between the two locations. How did they differ?

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If you were a sound-based predator, where would you rather live?

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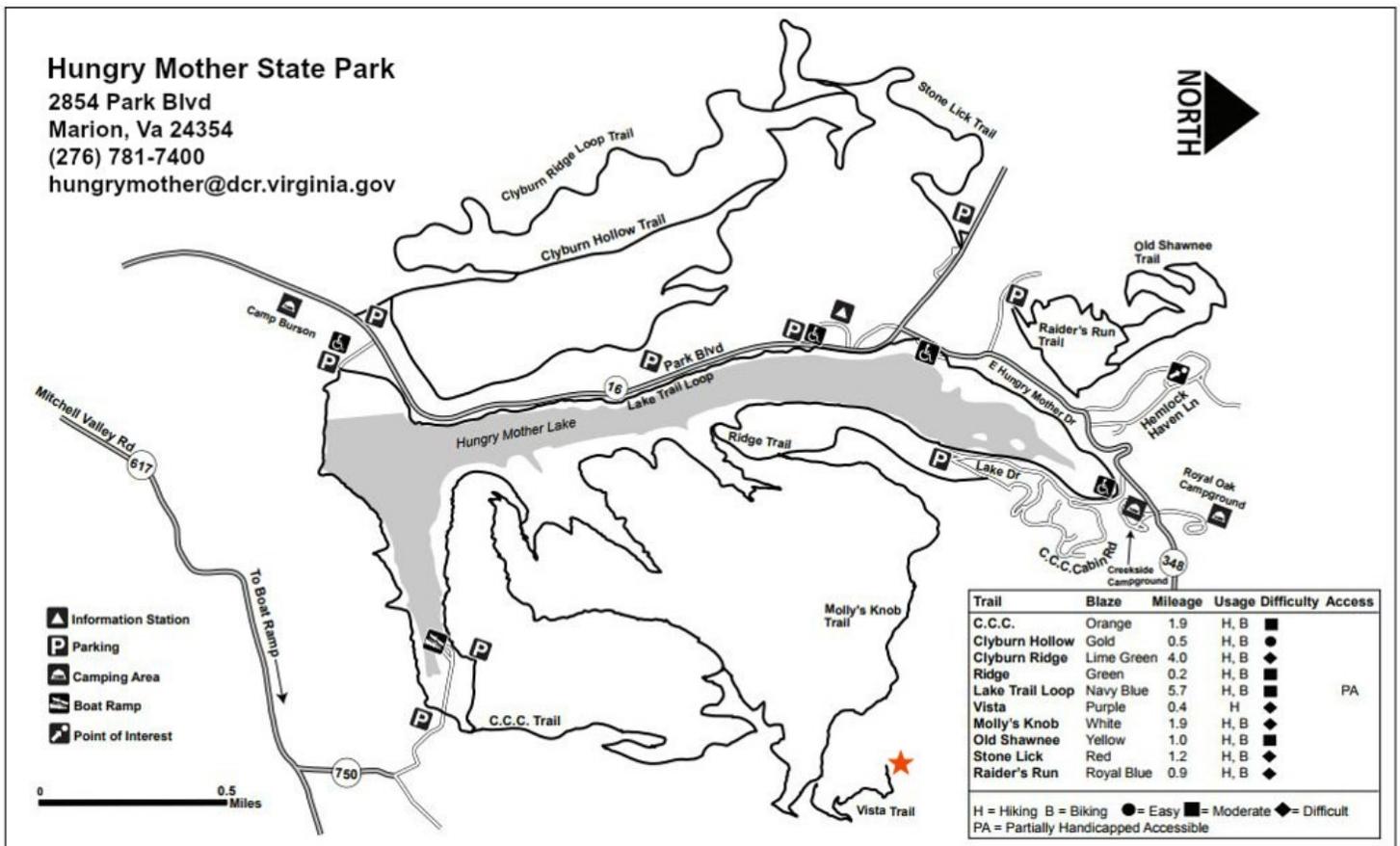
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# Activity 5

## CCC Scavenger Hunt

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) formed during the Great Depression to help men make money to support their families. The CCC helped in creating Hungry Mother State Park and started building some of our cabins and facilities in 1933. These buildings are still standing today. See if you can find some of the stone buildings and stone walls around the park and mark where you find them on the map below. Have a ranger check your map to see if you found them all.



# Activity 6

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## Habitat Observations

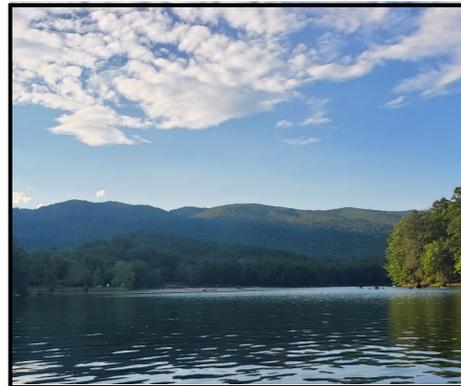
Habitats are the natural homes for different plants and animals. Different habitats can have very different plants and animals that live within them. Hungry Mother is home to many different habitats and a host of different plants and animals. Pick two of the four habitats below to visit and write down what you see at each.



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# Activity 7

## Animal Search

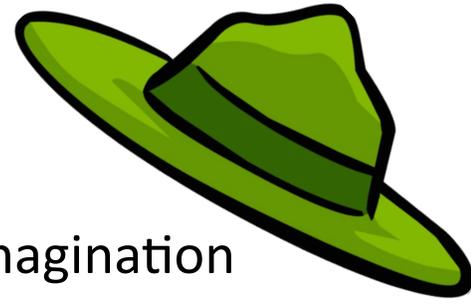
If you have explored the Discovery Center, you have seen the animal display in the back by the windows. See how many animals you can identify by yourself and then see if you can find them all in the word search below.



### Word Bank

Beaver  
Black bear  
Blue jay  
Cardinal  
Coyote  
Crow  
Groundhog  
Hawk  
Mallard  
Nuthatch  
Owl  
Raccoon  
Red fox  
Skunk  
Snake  
Squirrel  
Turkey

# Activity 8



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## Ranger Imagination

Park rangers have many different tasks. There are maintenance rangers, resource rangers, interpretive rangers, contact rangers, administrative rangers and law enforcement rangers. All of these rangers help in keeping parks up and running.

- Maintenance rangers help fix items when they break and also keep the park looking beautiful
- Resource rangers maintain the trails, remove invasive species and perform prescribed burns
- Interpretive rangers give programs to educate people and can answer questions on the park
- Contact rangers are the point rangers for directions and questions about the park
- Administrative rangers work in the background to keep the park running and order supplies when needed
- Law enforcement rangers keep the park safe for park visitors and enforce park rules

Draw the type of ranger you would want to be. Talk to a ranger, ask what type of ranger they are and have them sign below.

# Activity 9

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## Hungry Mother Legend

The Legend of Hungry Mother State Park has been passed down generation after generation. It explains one of the many reasons the park was named Hungry Mother. You can make your own park legend below, then compare it to the original.

Legend has it that when the Native Americans \_\_\_\_\_ several settlements on the  
(Verb)  
New River south of the park, \_\_\_\_\_ Marley and her \_\_\_\_\_ child were among  
(Name) (Adjective)  
the survivors taken to the Native Americans' base north of the park. They eventually  
escaped, \_\_\_\_\_ through the wilderness eating \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ finally  
(Verb) (Noun) (Name)  
\_\_\_\_\_, and her child \_\_\_\_\_ down a creek until the child found help. The only  
(Verb) (Verb)  
words the child could utter were " \_\_\_\_\_ Mother." The \_\_\_\_\_ party arrived at  
(Adjective) (Adjective)  
the foot of the mountain where \_\_\_\_\_ collapsed to find the child's mother  
(Name)  
\_\_\_\_\_. Today that mountain is called \_\_\_\_\_ Knob, and the stream is  
(Adjective) (Name)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mother Creek.  
(Adjective)

# Activity 9

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## Hungry Mother Legend

Below is the traditional Legend of Hungry Mother State Park. See how your legend compares to our legend.

### The Legend of Hungry Mother

Legend has it that when the Native Americans destroyed several settlements on the New River south of the park, Molly Marley and her small child were among the survivors taken to the Native Americans' base north of the park. They eventually escaped, wandering through the wilderness eating berries. Molly finally collapsed, and her child wandered down a creek until the child found help. The only words the child could utter were "Hungry Mother." The search party arrived at the foot of the mountain where Molly collapsed to find the child's mother dead. Today that mountain is called Molly's Knob, and the stream is Hungry Mother Creek.

How did your legend differ from our legend?

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# Activity 10

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## All The Trails To Hike

There are many trails within Hungry Mother State Park. Pick up a trail map from the Discovery Center, or from one of the many kiosks by the trailheads, and choose a trail to hike. When hiking you should always know where you are on a trail. Write down which trail you hiked and draw the trail route with four things you found interesting on the trail to help mark your way.

Which trail did you hike?

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Draw your trail route and markers.



# Activity 11

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## Hungry Mother Favorites

As you finish traveling around the park, think about what you enjoyed the most. Did you see a cool animal? Did you watch a pretty sunset? Draw your favorite thing about the park or something neat you saw.

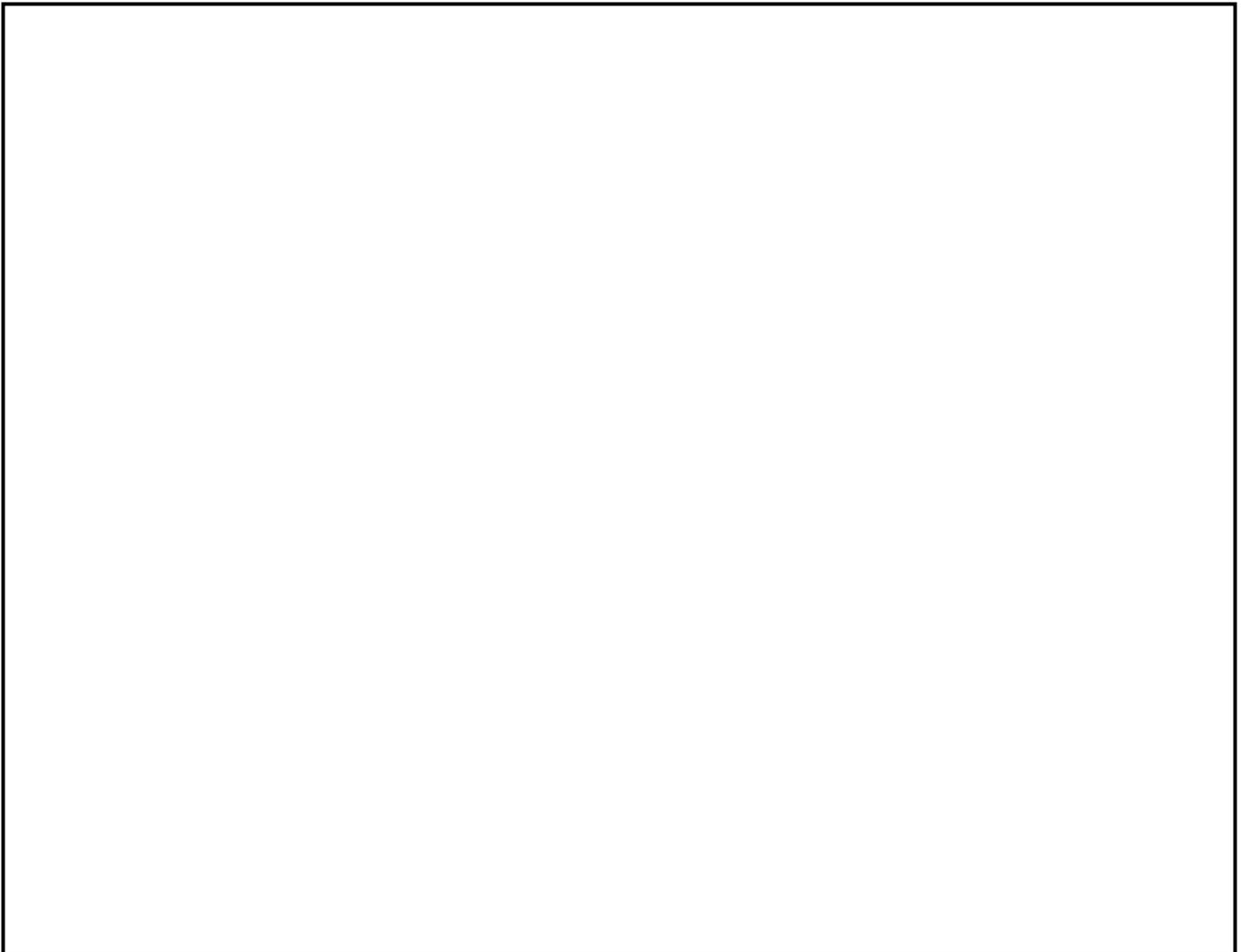
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a drawing. It occupies the lower two-thirds of the page.

# Activity 12

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## Stewards at Hungry Mother

A steward is someone who manages or takes care of an area. As a Jr. Naturalist it is very important to be a good steward of the earth or of our environment. We all can be good stewards here at Hungry Mother by picking up trash, planting trees, planting native flowers for our pollinators, and/or removing invasive species. Think about something you and your family can do here at the park to be good stewards. Talk to a park ranger and make a plan to help the park one afternoon in your stewardship activity. Draw a picture of you and your family being good stewards.



# Junior Naturalist Pledge

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I am proud to be a Hungry Mother State Park  
Junior Naturalist.

I promise to appreciate, respect, and conserve  
all state park and natural areas.

I also promise to continue learning about the  
landscape, plants, animals, and history of  
these places.

I will protect these special places so future  
generations can enjoy what I have enjoyed.

I will also share what I learn with my friends  
and family.



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Sign here to follow  
this pledge

# Certificate of Accomplishment

This Certifies that

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is an Official

**Junior Naturalist**

At Hungry Mother State Park

\_\_\_\_\_  
Park Ranger



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date